

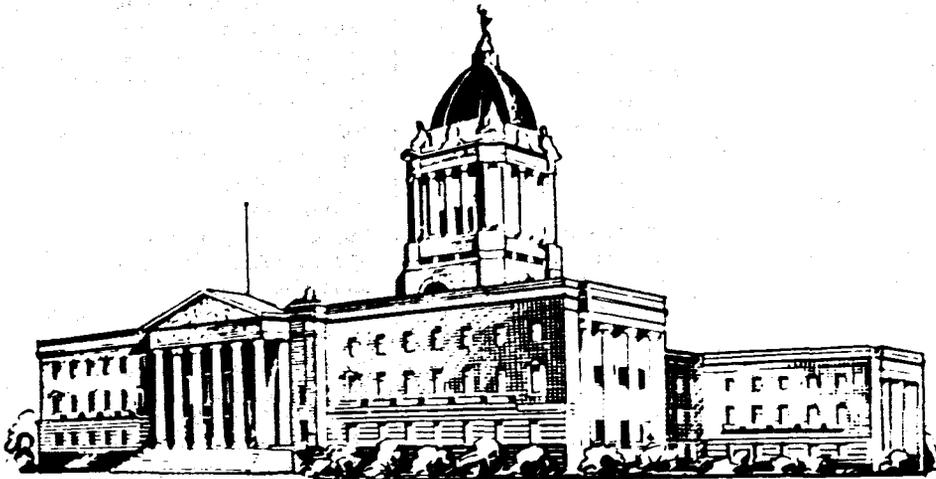


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 160 9:30 a.m., Friday, July 31st, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	11 Aster Ave., Winnipeg 17
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtiak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Russell J. Doern	705 - 33 Kennedy St., Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafrensky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	531 Greenacres Blvd., Winnipeg 12
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Peterson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
9:30 o'clock, Friday, July 31, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting petitions; Reading and Receiving petitions; Presenting reports by standing and special committees.

REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the 14th Report of the Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK: Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments begs leave to present the following as their 14th Report:

Your Committee recommends that the fees paid with respect to the following Bills, introduced during the Third Session of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature, be refunded, less the costs of printing:

No. 95 - An Act to amend An Act to incorporate Home and Research Centre for Retarded.

No. 96 - An Act to amend An Act to incorporate Home and Research Centre for Retarded Foundation.

Your Committee also recommends that Bill No. 148, The Municipal Tax Deferral Act, be not proceeded with at this Session of the Legislature, but that the subject matter of the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs for study and report to the next Session of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gimli, that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this time to thank the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the due consideration that is being given to Bill 148, the Tax Deferral Act, and the other members of the Committee. Not being a member of the Municipal Committee, I would urge those that are members to consider this matter very seriously when they meet before the next sitting of the House. I think this taxation problem that faces Manitoba is a critical issue and I feel sure that with due consideration being given by each and every one of that committee that we probably can arrive at a more equitable distribution of the tax load in the Province of Manitoba, and the principles that were involved in Bill 148 will be duly considered by the members of that Committee, and the whole question of the taxation practices in the Province of Manitoba will be properly reviewed and a new perspective arrived at in the intervening months before the next session.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, that the fees paid with respect to the following bills introduced during the Third Session of the 28th Legislature be refunded, less the cost of printing.

Bill No. 95, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate the Home and Research Centre for Retarded; and

Bill No. 96, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate Home and Research Centre for Retarded Foundation.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gimli, that the subject matter of Bill No. 148, The Municipal Tax Deferral Act, be not proceeded with at this session of the Legislature but that the subject matter of the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs for study and report to the next session of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources.

MR. CLERK: Your Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources beg

(MR. CLERK cont'd.) leave to present the following as their Fourth Report:

Your Committee met on the following dates to consider Bill No. 56, The Automobile Insurance Act:

June 27, 1970; June 29, 1970; July 4, 1970; July 22, 1970; July 23, 1970; July 24, 1970; July 25, 1970; July 28, 1970; and July 29, 1970.

Your Committee has considered Bill No. 56, The Automobile Insurance Act, and has agreed to report the same with certain amendments.

Your Committee reports that 116 presentations with respect to Bill No. 56 were received by the Committee. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Osborne, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Riel, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Riel.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the House Leader. I wonder if he can advise when the Public Utilities Committee might meet to finish consideration with regards to Manitoba Hydro's presentation.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Honourable the Minister of Finance dealt with that question on several previous occasions.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, may I inquire from the House Leader, or through him to the Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee, when we might expect the other transcripts from the hearing on Public Utilities considering Bill 56. We've only got the first three. We haven't had a transcript since -- June 29th, I believe, is the last transcript we have and there's been significant debate in there, and all members of the House, Mr. Speaker, are not members of the Committee, and I think in consideration of it, it would be very helpful if this was to be made available.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, if I may be privileged to answer my honourable friend. I have had this matter under discussions with the Queen's Printer even just as we were coming into the House, and I might say, Mr. Speaker, that if there's delay in the production of Hansard, it is because the Queen's Printer is concentrating on the transcript of the Committee on Public Utilities. He tells me that about half of them are done and he's concentrating and has additional staff working on them but feels it's unlikely that he will be able to complete the whole transcripts until later on in the week, but hopefully they will be done then. I want to assure my honourable friend and members of the House that every effort is being made to speed up the production of the transcripts.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Speaker, if I may, might I ask, if half of them are done, could we have the half that are done so that members could at least be perusing the ones that are done. I'm surprised that even amongst the Committee, if there were some done, that they weren't distributed even though the House wasn't in Session because, to be effective, there certainly is required a certain amount of members' time to be able to peruse them and to have them of some benefit to the members of the Committee and members of the House as well.

MR. PAULLEY: All I can assure my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, is that there's no hold up - it's just as soon as they are available, they will be distributed. And when I said half are done I really meant in the process, not necessarily gone through the printer, but the transcriptions are there.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce or the First Minister. It is with respect to the request, or the indication of a request from Dr. Oskar Reiser of CFI, that he will be approaching the Manitoba Government for more loan funds. Will the government be encouraging the Manitoba Development Fund to make a loan or will they be discouraging that application?

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): I have heard, too, about these indications that this may happen, as the Honourable House Leader puts it, but so far this has not happened and until that happens it would be really conjecture and there's no point in giving a reply as to what might happen in a hypothetical situation.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, could the First Minister indicate as to whether or not they would welcome an application?

MR. SCHREYER: My honourable friend must regard it as being about as incredible as I do.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I have a question on a related subject, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Arthur D. Little and Company who have been retained by CFI, has the government of Manitoba or the MDF, have either one of these bodies paid a fee to this company for any of the work they have done with respect to CFI?

MR. SCHREYER: If my honourable friend is referring to extra payment for the sort of second run through of auditing and so on, the answer is no.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question, I guess, to the House Leader. I was wondering if I could have copies of all the amendments that were proposed in Committee to Bill 56.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it seems reasonable that when we're considering the Bill in the Committee of the Whole House that members should receive copies of the amendments because they won't have them on the Bill, so I will ask the Clerk to see whether distribution can be made.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, if I can, to the House Leader. I think it would be better to have distribution made now. I think the House Leader indicated that when we reached committee. This was one of the problems we faced at the time we got the amendment, Mr. Speaker, in committee, and I would ask that members that weren't on the committee receive copies of them now so that they can have a chance to look at them.

MR. GREEN: My honourable friend just either didn't hear me or didn't understand me. I said it seemed reasonable that when members get to the Committee that they should have copies, and therefore, I would ask the Clerk to distribute them, and I would like to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that although amendments have been received on many previous occasions in previous years, it's not been done, but that's not to say that it shouldn't be done and I agree with my honourable friend.

HON. AL. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): Mr. Speaker, I just want to advise that I spoke to Legislative Counsel. I was under the impression that as a matter of course there would be sufficient copies made of those amendments. There were only sufficient made for the committee members, perhaps give or take several other copies, and to my regret I find this morning that, you know, it isn't a matter of course that they're run off, that amendments are made for all members or copies of amendments are made for all members of the House as a matter of course. Apparently, it can be done and so I've asked that that be done as soon as possible so we get them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In the Committee of Public Utilities I believe he undertook to supply the members, or the opposition parties, with a copy of the transcript of the Pawley hearings and I wonder whether we could have that at this time.

MR. PAWLEY: Just prior to coming into the House, Mr. Speaker, I checked to ascertain how rapidly this was being done, and apparently yesterday the copies were being run off and they are this morning, and I am very hopeful that we will have them very shortly. This is, however, one set to each party, rather than one set to each MLA.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that today is the last day of the 1970 crop year, could the Minister inform the House whether or not he will be making representation to the Federal Government to extend the crop year in those delivery points where they have not been able to deliver a four bushel quota?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, the subject matter was on the agenda of the Prairie Economic Council meeting yesterday in Regina, and we did undertake to consult with the Wheat Board and the government of Canada, and the information we have is that there is no problem - that everyone will have an opportunity to deliver his four bushels.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and ask him if there is any MDF involvement - capital involvement - in the new winery projected for the Morris area?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, the answer is a simple "no".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the House Leader. I would like to inquire when the Member for Winnipeg Centre will return from his trip from Greece because, as you know, the Member for La Verendrye is paired with him and he is most anxious to vote on the rest of the votes on Bill 56.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can't give a definite answer to that question but

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if I might on a point of order, I believe that matters pertaining to pairing is a matter that is not officially recognized and is not subject to questioning and answering in the House.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I consider this a legitimate question. There is some anxiety on the part of the member and he is not here to ask the question although he had intended to be here.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, that is a matter between the Member and the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture or it could be considered a follow-up question. Regarding his conversation in Edmonton yesterday, most presses and if I could believe, just to elaborate a wee bit to get a fuller explanation to my question, most elevator agents or managers have been given instructions that the cut-off date is today, there have also been loud hints that they can make that July 31st go for quite a long amount of days, everything must be dated, and the question here is, these people are for the most part bonded people and they're legally being told to do things that the bond people would not really honour, and I'm sure that July 31st is the biggest cash tickets sales that will be. No. 2, these agents, most of them, have planned holidays and mine might stay for a couple of days, but I think it's unfair he has to cancel out his holidays and we should be looking in the future to trying to alleviate this. We know early in July, the first two weeks, those same agents were sitting with not writing a solitary cash ticket and I'm blaming both the Wheat Board and the Federal Government. I would ask my Minister to try in the future to alleviate this very problem because it is big, and I'm sure this will not be the case that everybody will not get all their -- I see you rising, Mr. Speaker -- will not get all their four-bushel out -- I'm watching you. -- (Interjections) --

MR. USKIW: Well again, I think I did cover the question fully in answer to the question put by the Member for Birtle-Russell. I want to restate that position, and that is that Prairie Economic Council was concerned about the same problem and we did undertake to have it checked out with the Canadian Wheat Board and the Government of Canada, and we're assured that there would be no problem in accepting deliveries of four bushels at this time.

MR. MCGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, should there not be a subsequent notice put that the Wheat Board is aligned and then you go into the new crop year. This would relieve pressure that maybe three weeks from now we could fill our quota.

MR. USKIW: . . . that I have to be satisfied with the assurance that was given to us yesterday. How they accomplish it is their problem but as long as the farmers are in a position to deliver their four-bushels it satisfies me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): A supplementary question to that of the question that's been asked by the Member for Virden. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture is aware of the type of notice that the agents have been given by the Canadian Wheat Board?

MR. USKIW: Well I haven't seen it, if that's the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. The question is to the Honourable Minister of Transportation. During the last session the Minister announced that he would ask the Metro government to stop expropriations of land for inner-perimeter beltway. I understand, or my information is at the present time that Metro Corporation is proceeding again as of recently for expropriating

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) land for the beltway. I wonder if this is correct?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it's correct, but if it is they're going to be awfully embarrassed when it comes to paying the bills because the freeze is still on.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have another question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Because of the adverse publicity, many of the tourist camps and lodges have had serious loss of business and income. Is the government considering any compensation for these lodges or has the Minister requested Ottawa and in conjunction with the two governments, are they considering any compensation?

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Tourism & Recreation)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, to the best to my knowledge, I am not aware that any tourist camps have suffered severe financial losses. I do believe that there has been some losses encountered as a result of the pollution, but not to any great extent, at least it hasn't been brought to my attention.

MR. PATRICK: Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said you had no request from any tourist camp operators for compensation. Is that . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, just so there is no misunderstanding; I have had some requests through my department.

MR. PATRICK: Can I ask the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources - has he had any requests from -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, a subsequent question. Has the Minister acted on these requests or is he contemplating doing anything about it or not?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Mr. Davies was here, the question of compensation due to mercury contamination was discussed and I announced to the House that it was agreed at that time that there was no program forthcoming for tourist camp or lodge operators, but that the situation would be reviewed in the fall. I can't guarantee a program but I do know that there was a suggestion that it would be reviewed in the fall after the practice had been examined.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, then a supplementary question to the Minister of Tourism. Has his department then taken a survey to see what actually is happening in this area of losses to tourist camps so that a decision can be made in the face of actual knowledge?

MR. BURTNIAK: We are looking at the matter, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, on June 25th, 1970, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge asked me a question regarding whether we would consider a publicity campaign concerning the importance of having polio shots in view of the fact that some immigrants from other countries are not aware of the fact that the disease is endemic in Manitoba and they arrive here without protection.

In response to the question, Mr. Speaker, it is not correct to say that polio is endemic in Manitoba. Endemic means that it is generally prevalent; in fact as a result of the polio program immunization that we have had in this province since 1957, we have the following results: In 1959 we had 26 cases; 1960 - 13 cases; 1961 - no cases; 1962 - 4 cases; '63 - no cases; '64 - no cases; '65 - one case; '66 - 3; '67, '68, '69 - no cases. Therefore a person coming into Manitoba would not be a risk. It would be more likely that a person leaving Manitoba to a less immunized area and would have not been himself immunized might be one of risk. Such people should take Sabin vaccine.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. On June 22nd the First Minister stated that we could expect to receive the Boundaries Commission report some time between the middle of July and toward the end of July. I wonder if he can tell us now when we will receive it?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I was advised last week that the report was at that stage where it was being prepared to go to the printer. I believe that it is at print now or will be very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Will I then be reading this report in the newspapers before I receive it officially?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, certainly an effort will be made to see that a report is circulated as soon as it's received by the government. The Honourable Member for Wolseley will appreciate that the terms of reference of the Boundaries Commission are such that the report that they prepare is to be made available to the public — In fact, I believe that it is statutory that it be made available to the public. I take that to mean that it will be made available concurrently to the government and just to make sure that my honourable friend would get a copy, it will be circulated to members at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, is it true that the government has instituted a separate study of its own and had reported in the paper for the purpose of holding up this boundaries report?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, we have had a person studying this on an on-going way for the past many months and since actually forming the government last July, we have had practically continuous study made of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, the newspaper report indicated that the purpose of holding up this report at this time was to prevent it coming at a very critical time when Bill 56 was here; is this correct?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in telling my honourable friend that is nonsense. I'm sure he'll appreciate that. I'm sure he'll agree that it is nonsense because the fact of the matter is that it is going to print and it is at print now; and until it is finished being printed it can't very well be tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister advise the House as to whether the dates are related — the dates between the expected publication of the government's findings and the Boundaries Commission's findings. Is one predicated on when the other comes out?

MR. SCHREYER: No, Mr. Speaker, the person that we have working on problems of urban government, etc., he is doing so not in the nature of a full blown study because that would be duplicating work that was done by the Boundaries Commission, but he is doing this work rather for purposes of preparing advice to be given the government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, on Page 3818 of Hansard, the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose asked a question of me in respect to assessment and the means of appeal of assessment at Steep Rock, Manitoba. In Steep Rock there are about 50 homes located on land belonging to Canada Cement Company. Each of these homes is separately assessed and is identified by its location on the unregistered subdivision provided by the Company. Assessments and tax notices are sent to the Company together with a breakdown of the assessment so that the taxes may be apportioned among the owners of the buildings. Owners of individual buildings dissatisfied with the amount of the assessment of their building may lodge a complaint with the court of revision and the complaint will be dealt with as the same way as though their property was separately assessed. Information as to the assessment of the individual buildings is available with a company; it is also available at the office of the Provincial Municipal Assessor in Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for his statement. One further question. Is the information available at the office of the local government administrator?

MR. PAWLEY: It is my understanding that the information is not to my knowledge. I will check this further. I see no reason why that type of information could not be available at that office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister would now confirm to the House that Mr. Meyer Brownstone and Mr. Feldman are working on a new plan of amalgamation of the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, whatever work these gentlemen are doing is internal. I think it's presumptuous in the extreme of the honourable member to think that we will indicate what work is being done by persons retained for purposes such as this, and in addition to that

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) his question, I suggest to him, is - well, I've already told him what I thought of his question. But, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is assuming that they are working on a particular approach to urban government. They may be, but they've also been asked to consider a number of alternatives in terms of changes in urban government structures.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder whether he can inform the House whether the Public Utilities Committee will be allowed to hear the testimony in evidence of Mr. Fallis, the General Manager of Hydro, before the session is completed?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the practice in committee, and I think my honourable friend is aware of this, is for the committee to decide whom they will hear. This is the practice in provincial legislatures and federal commons committees.

MR. SPIVAK: Well a supplementary question then. I wonder if the First Minister can assure us that the committee will sit so that we can, in fact, make that decision?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the committee has sat. I don't know what decisions they have already taken with respect to hydro matters. I presume if the committee has not passed a motion to conduct additional meetings then none will be held; if a motion was passed to that effect, then they will be.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder whether, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister could inform himself of the fact that the committee has not completed its deliberations and Mr. Fallis was promised to the committee.

MR. SCHREYER: If that is so, Mr. Speaker, then that shall be lived up to.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. During debate in Public Utilities Committee the Member for River Heights alluded to the fact that a number of Cabinet Ministers would be taking extensive trips after the session. Could the Minister tell us if this is true and what is the purpose of the trips. -- (Interjection) -- Because he's not on the Executive Council, that's why.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware what trips are being referred to. I can tell my honourable friend that there are some Ministers who have indicated that they will be wanting to take a summer holiday - I presume my honourable friend will be doing that too. If my honourable friend is referring to long distance trips, I can advise him that I do know of two such, but they are both at the invitation of the Government of Canada and if the Ministers in each case do go it will be at the expense of the government inviting them - in other words the Government of Canada. I know of no trips overseas other than that - those one or two cases. There really won't be that much travelling.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance. Can he indicate in light of the First Minister's remarks regarding the Hydro hearings, when we might have the public utilities committee complete its hearing of Hydro.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. John's)? As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, the question has been answered.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the question is really subsequent to the First Minister's remarks which indicated that if agreement was made by the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member a subsequent question?

MR. CRAIK: Yes. The question was really that the First Minister left it to the other Minister to say when - and could he indicate at this time, when?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member has already asked that question. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In the absence of an answer in this respect, I wonder if either the Minister of Finance or the First Minister could indicate whether the Hydro Board meeting was held which was indicated by the First Minister approximately 10 days ago?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm under the impression that a meeting was to have been held yesterday and as far as I know it was held.

MR. CRAIK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether the decision discussed earlier in the House at that time was made yesterday by Hydro with respect to thermal power generation?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I thought I indicated that I understand a meeting was held; that that should be conclusive that I don't know for certain, and therefore I don't know what decisions were made.

MR. CRAIK: Another supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister undertake to advise us if any decision was made?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I would expect that I'll be hearing from Manitoba Hydro and when I do I hope I will make the proper decisions as to what to do with the information I receive from Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. During the hearings, Public Utilities hearings on Bill 56, the chairman of the committee indicated that he had seen the bill, and the contents of the bill that was to be introduced in the next session with respect to compensation. Can the First Minister indicate . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Point of order, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. ENNS: . . . that such a bill exists?

MR. DESJARDINS: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. This is not a fact, and the member knows it; the chairman of the committee never did say that he saw . . . he saw nil.

MR. ENNS: On the same point of order, there's a difficulty there if we can't . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe that the honourable member has indicated that he had not made the statement which he is alleged to have made and I do not believe it is a point of order on that.

The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, could I ask a question of the Minister of Municipal Affairs who is piloting Bill 56, if it is the intention of the government to spell out a new and more adequate form of compensation with respect to the auto insurance agents this session?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think that matter will be discussed when the bill is being debated and discussed in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. A witness coming before the Public Utilities Committee indicated that in his opinion there was moral justification to legislate people out of their homes, but that it was immoral to flood them out. I wonder if the Minister could comment.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, may I in reply to the honourable member, ask him, in reply to him, may I point out to him that if he would only take the time to consider other major public programs that have been legislated and implemented in this province, in other provinces and by the Government of Canada, he will find that in many cases with the implementation of new and major programs, that there has been dislocation, in some cases painful, other cases less so, which has taken time for transition to take place.

May I point out to him that in the case of the U.S. - Canada auto agreement, the implementation thereof resulted in the displacement of 9,000 working men, 2,000 of which ultimately were eligible for actual transitional assistance benefits, and that if he does not like the reference to employees, as some apparently don't, may I refer then to the owners of the automotive parts' class that in order to assist them in the transition that the government found it necessary to consider some form of transition assistance, and that my honourable friend if he checks will find was in the form of - not of any grants or payments - but in the form of a loan, a standing offer to extend a loan. I'm not suggesting that whatever policy is decided upon with respect to transitional assistance in this case will be only that, but my honourable friend can rest assured that before the program goes operational there will have been an opportunity to deal with this other aspect, to this other matter which has to do with transitional assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can confirm whether he has made this statement. "Can we almost in our Centennial Year face up to the prospect of disrupting two communities of 700 people, completely upsetting the lake on which they depend for their livelihood, making it quite impossible for at least some of them to continue . . ."

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SPIVAK: ". . . can we all do this for a slight financial gain?"

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Orders of the Day.

MR. SCHREYER: May I say that I don't mind that as long as he would put it in the context . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister, and relates to his reply. Then can it be fairly interpreted by members of the House that there will be no firm offer of more adequate compensation at least until after the passage of Bill 56, if it should pass?

MR. SCHREYER: Certainly before the program goes operational. May I, in this connection, point out to my honourable friend and ask him to make some study of the time sequence here in this matter and that which was followed in the case of the legislating and implementation of the U.S.-Canada agreement. I would invite him to make some study of the time sequence because there was the lapse of many months before the actual passing of regulations of the program of transitional assistance, and then subsequently. I'd like the opportunity to go into detail on this but it is, in my view, a matter that is to be dealt with more appropriately later, but before the program goes operational.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary question to the First Minister. I wonder whether the First Minister can indicate the detail with respect to the compensation to be paid to the Fish Processing . . . that was announced a year ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Order.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I said the other night . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I am wondering - There are a number of questions dealing with matters related to Bill 56 and I believe that there is a motion before the House that the report of the Committee be received dealing with the bill, which is under adjournment. I'm wondering if questions related to Bill 56 could not be dealt with appropriately at some subsequent time. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the First Minister relative to South Indian Lake. Has a final decision been arrived at by Hydro and by government as to what will be done, what level of flooding will be settled on?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that at the board meeting which was to have been held yesterday, the Manitoba Hydro Board meeting, that the effort would be made to arrive at a decision as to a set of recommendations. I presume that if a decision was arrived at then this will be transmitted to the government either later today or possibly early next week. On the other hand, if the Hydro Board has not come to a decision as to what it will recommend, I presume that that too would be transmitted to us for information, either today or early next week.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: A supplementary question. Will the government then be making the final decision or will Hydro be making the final decision, or will it be referred as in the past to the Water Control Board or whoever issues the license?

MR. SCHREYER: Well Mr. Speaker, there is a very definite coordination responsibility that lies with the government because the recommendations that we receive, I'm sure the honourable member will agree, will have to be reconciled -- hopefully there won't be much reconciliation necessary -- will have to be reconciled with that of the Manitoba Water Commission and those other agencies of the government that are either directly or indirectly involved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government set a deadline on the date of this report?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I understand my honourable friend's question. Have we set a deadline as to when we would like to receive the recommendations from Manitoba Hydro? Well, we have set target dates but not deadlines, because we realize that the decision here is a very grave and important one and I really don't think that the board should be subject to any kind of deadline, but we have impressed that there is some urgency to try and get a decision as soon as reasonably possible. Having said that, there isn't much more that one could say.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the government House

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . Leader rising out of the First Minister's suggestion last week or earlier this week that perhaps there could be an exchange of Saturday for Tuesday with respect to House business and House sittings. I'd like to ask the government House Leader if he's in a position to advise members as to the schedule facing them in terms of House procedure, over the coming weekend.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that consensus was reached that we would not sit tomorrow and not sit on Monday or Tuesday, that we would reconvene on Wednesday if necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. I wonder whether he could indicate whether any of the fish processing companies that have been put out of business have been paid one cent of compensation by the province?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the fish processors, need I tell my honourable friend, again, that the situation, that the decision as to whether or not there is any redundancy payment made, is something that is determined by actions of federal and provincial governments. I said by actions of - and that the legislation and program was implemented with the understanding that there would be no declaration of redundancies and an effort would be made by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to utilize the facility and services of the freshwater fish processors. Whether or not this has happened to an adequate degree, to a degree satisfactory to the processors, is something that is difficult for me to answer, and in any case we here are not answerable for the actions of a federal-interprovincial type of Crown agency and the decision as to whether or not the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation continued to utilize the services of fish processors to a greater or lesser extent is something that we have had little success in influencing; and if that is unsatisfactory to my honourable friend, which it may be, I simply remind him that we did not sign that agreement - the former government signed it - and not only that, the former Minister - perhaps I shouldn't get into that, Mr. Speaker, but I have reason to believe that not all of the Member of River Heights' colleagues, the former cabinet, were that happy about the redundancy features.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The First Minister has made certain comments by way of innuendo . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker. . .

MR. SPIVAK: . . . by way of innuendo, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPIVAK: By way of innuendo - he's also made - Mr. Speaker, I'm on a point of privilege . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPIVAK: I'm on a point of privilege right now.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm asking you to rule now on the basis of the honourable member's remarks whether he has a point of privilege. He said that the Honourable First Minister in answering a question made statements by way of innuendo and I would ask you to rule as to whether he now has a point of privilege on which he can speak.

MR. SPEAKER: It is difficult to determine at this point whether anything was said which was a breach of privilege against some member of the House.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I believe, however, I do have a legitimate point of privilege insofar as the Minister referred to by the First Minister was myself in my capacity as . . .

MR. SCHREYER: You weren't alone, I know that, there were others . . .

MR. ENNS: All right, but I was the Minister particularly responsible for the Department of Mines and Natural Resources at that time, the time the agreement was being negotiated with the Federal Government, and the innuendo referred to by the Honourable the First Minister suggests again, which he has done on other occasions with other Ministers, that there was a difference or a lack of support for the honourable, my colleague from River Heights' position with respect to the redundancy features of the agreement between the Federal Government and the provinces in the creation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing.

The basic disagreement hinged upon the fact that the Federal Government was insisting on inclusion in the agreement of the redundancy features - which we did not disagree with. We certainly believed, as we believe in Bill 56, that full and adequate compensation should be given when a government moves in a certain area; but we objected, and I objected very strenuously with the Honourable Monsieur Pepin in negotiating the agreement, I objected to the illogic

(MR. ENNS cont'd) of having the Federal Government dictate to the Provincial Government arrangements within an agreement whereby the Provincial Government would have to be the ones that would pay the money. That was the area of disagreement and the area of difficulty that I had with my federal counterparts in negotiating the agreement which set up the Freshwater Fish Marketing.

The innuendo that has been suggested by the First Minister was quite definitely, Mr. Speaker - and I must suggest to you this is how shrewdly he can use this kind of information - he would have you believe that the difference existed between me and the Member for River Heights with respect to the matter of compensation or redundancy; and that, Mr. Chairman, is quite incorrect and I take pleasure in correcting the record at this time.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. Does he not consider that the period of the year in which the Fish Marketing Board . . . is enough of a transitional period for the Provincial Government to now declare the redundancy?

MR. SPEAKER: . . . honourable member is aware, is asking for an expression of opinion. The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. SCHREYER: May I reply to the question, or was it ruled out of order? If it was ruled out of order, Sir, I'll take my place, but if it wasn't - was it? Sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It relates to the operation of graders on provincial and municipal roads. I understand in the past that when one crossed the other's road to travel to a point where they were going to work on their own roads they would travel with the blade down and grade roads that needed to be graded, and then later there would be a cross payment between the government and municipalities for work done in that manner. So my question is, has there been a change in government policy whereby government graders travel down municipal roads and vice versa with the blade up where the work is desperately needed and there is now no cross payment of money for that former arrangement?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, one of the first things we eliminated is the wasteful duplication of the previous government in the special grading for Conservative constituencies. One of the things that this management study did - one of the things, Mr. Speaker, that the management study did - and that's one of the reasons I accepted the study that cost \$180,000 because it gave out a very definite and specific set of rules to grade certain roads so many times per year. Without referring back to the Minister to make a political decision, without referring to the bureaucrats in the department, the District Engineer has the rules laid down by the Management Committee and they would use these rules throughout Manitoba.

If there is any abuse of this I would appreciate hearing because as far as I'm concerned they are adhering to the management-maintenance study.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Then it is a fact that both municipal and provincial graders are travelling with the blade up down roads where work is desperately needed?

MR. BOROWSKI: Could you repeat that, please?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: It is a fact then, Mr. - I ask the Minister - that provincial graders are travelling down roads, municipal roads, with the blade up, where work is desperately needed, and there is now no arrangement for cross payment of monies for doing that work. Is that a fact?

MR. BOROWSKI: I'm not aware of it, Mr. Speaker, but if the member has such information and if he could specify the area, I would certainly be happy to look into it and correct it if this is the case.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation. Would he start another study into the poor conditions of the PR roads in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't require a study to realize that many of the roads in Manitoba have been neglected for many many years and it's going to take us many years to catch up.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assinibola.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that a Humble Address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Manitoba or any of its boards, agencies, commissions, or corporations, and James Bertram and Son Limited of Edinburgh, Scotland or James Bertram and Son (Canada) Limited or any of their affiliates with respect to the establishment of a paper production machinery plant at The Pas.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Sorry. Did the honourable member wish to make some comments on this before . . . Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, at this point therefore I would adjourn the debate. I would move that the debate be adjourned, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage; That an humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Manitoba or any of its boards, agencies, commissions, or corporations, and River Sawmill Limited or any of its affiliates (including Churchill Forest Industries) with respect to the establishment of a sawmill at The Pas by the aforesaid company.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Government Services, that debate on the question be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia; That an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

1. The amounts paid by the Government, its agencies, boards, commissions, etc., for legal counsel outside the Government Civil Service or those employed by governmental agencies, boards, commissions, etc., on a full-time basis for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1969.

(a) the amount paid to each individual or firm

(i) as fees

(ii) as disbursements

(b) the purpose for which such legal counsel was retained.

2. The same information for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the government will have no problem. We will assemble the information.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Riel; That an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the record of all trips taken by members of the Department of Industry and Commerce or individuals sponsored by the Department of Industry and Commerce, outside the Province of Manitoba, since July 15th, 1969, showing the objectives of these trips, and a record of all costs and travelling expenses related to each trip.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I intend to speak on this and would ask that this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Matter stand until Private Members' Day. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Riel; That an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information:

1. The names, positions and salaries of all new employees in the Department of Industry and Commerce, since July 1st, 1969.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.)

2. The names and terms of reference of all consultants and advisors hired by the Department of Industry and Commerce, since July 15th, 1969.

3. The record to date of all fees and expenses committed to these consultants and advisors.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to accept the Order for Return subject to the understanding that we can only indicate in a very general way in some cases the terms of reference of consultants hired. The fact of the matter is, and the honourable member should know this full well, that much of the research that's going on, much of the consulting work that's being done is of a nature that may lead hopefully to the establishment of industry. Now the disclosure of terms of reference can in many cases hurt this process, and as long as the honourable member understands that qualification, we'll be pleased to accept the Order for Return.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following bills: No. 134, an Act to amend The Elections Act (2); No. 87, the Manitoba Dental Services Corporation Act.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, with the Honourable Member for Elmwood in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, the Premier has gone to get his notes in connection with Bill No. 134. I hope it'll suit the committee to deal with No. 87 first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill 87 - The Manitoba Dental Services Corporation Act. (Sections 1 - 9 (1) --passed) Section 9 (2) -- The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: I don't know if the Legislative Counsel has been summoned or not. On Section 9 (2) there is a requested amendment. Mr. Chairman, may I remind those members of the committee who were present at the committee that dealt with these amendments of this private bill, that certain questions had been raised when the bill was first considered and I had undertaken with the Honourable Member for Kildonan that I would review those aspects which certain members of the committee had raised and to discuss it with the persons who had requested that the bill be passed, that is the petitioners, on this issue. I then came back to committee and reported on the nature of my discussions indicating - and I put it on record again - that it was not a government bill, it was a private bill, that the government did not take a position on it except insofar as an attempt to ensure that in the event that the corporation proposed would want to set up its own plan, its own insurance scheme, then the government would want to make sure, as all members of the committee would have wanted to make sure, that there are certain provisions that would entitle persons who purchase benefits by way of insurance under the scheme to have some say in the operations of the scheme. It was indicated then that if the petitioners had wanted to put in a private bill or even to incorporate themselves under The Companies Act, that this could be done and then they would come under the provisions of the Insurance Act and the requirements of the Superintendent of Insurance I believe, both Federal and Provincial, and the amendments which were proposed in committee were then designed to provide that in the event that the corporation would wish to establish its own insurance scheme then the cabinet would have the power to make effective certain or all of the Insurance Act provisions on the corporation.

One of the problems of course is that the Dental Association wishes really to have the power to negotiate with the existing insurance carriers of dental insurance in order to establish criteria and standards which would be acceptable to both the dentists as a group and to various companies, and it was therefore fairly clear that they would have difficulty incorporating under the Insurance Act and take on all the obligations under the Insurance Act if really all they wanted was the opportunity to negotiate with the existing private insurance

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) company carriers. Therefore the amendments that were made in such a way as to give the dentists control of the corporation for the purposes of carrying on these negotiations; but it was further provided that in the event that the members of the Dental Association wished to go into insurance on their own then they would have to comply with the requirements of the Insurance Act which might be quite onerous in that I believe they're required to have a paid-up capital of some half a million dollars. I may be wrong about the last provisions but I do understand that the provisions would be onerous.

Now as a result, Mr. Chairman, we did provide that the by-laws of the corporation would have to be submitted to the Minister designated as responsible - that were responsible, to enable the government to make sure that the provisions in the by-law were not onerous on the general membership, that is, those people who purchase the service, rather than the dentists themselves; and we therefore knew that we would have the power to negotiate further with the corporation in the event they wanted to bring in this scheme.

One of the amendments therefore, and that's the one I stopped you on, 9(2), was drafted to provide that were Section 18 applied that there would be the right of every person entitled to benefits under this scheme, that is, under the scheme operated by the corporation and the dentists themselves, that they would have a voice as members of the corporation. Now after the committee met and passed the various amendments, I was approached by members of the - well, the petitioners, the proposed Boards of Directors and the Legislative Counsel was approached by the solicitor of the corporation with a concern that if all members of the scheme had an automatic membership there may then be a great burden, a great cost burden to notify all members of the scheme of all meetings of the corporation and to keep them advised of all the matters which were internal in the corporation, and their objection to the amendment which had been passed was that there was no provision for membership apart from just being purchasers of the Insurance Plan. They wish, therefore, that I should bring before committee an amendment which provides that they would have to become members of the corporation by complying with the by-laws and paying the dues required by the corporation. I promised that I would bring this to committee and not particularly push for it but I think that the petitioners are entitled to have it presented to them.

The discussion which I had with the solicitor for the Dental Association or the petitioners in this bill was that membership fees could be set so high that it would become an onerous undertaking for a lay member to become a member of the corporation, and after discussion he assured me that the intent was that the fee would be something in the order of \$5.00 a year or less. Now, of course, that's not really binding on the - I mean that figure is not binding on the corporation, but the by-laws will be submitted to the Minister in charge and when we deal with the desire of the corporation to apply Section 18 to their operations then we would have the opportunity to review it.

I therefore personally, not as a member of government, but personally, don't really object to the requested amendment by the petitioners and in order to facilitate discussion and to carry out my promise to have this matter brought before the committee, I'm prepared now to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that subsection (2) of Section 9 of Bill 87 be struck out and the following subsection substituted therefor:

9 (2) Where section 18 applies, every person entitled to benefits under any scheme operated by the Corporation is entitled to become a lay member of the Corporation upon payment of the membership fees as required in the by-laws of the Corporation.

Copies have already been distributed to all members. Mr. Chairman, I believe you have a copy of the proposed amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I was trying to listen carefully to what the Minister had to say and I would hope that in referring back to the committee, I do note that there's a committee of directors of what? - seven I believe it is now, is it not? Seven, and they have the right to increase to 15. I don't really understand the Bill as it now stands but if these people so desire, it would appear to me that they wouldn't have to extend their committee to 15 unless they so desired; and it would lay within their jurisdiction as to whether it should be 15 or not. I would hope that this could be changed in some way so that in fact there would be an assurance that there would be laymen.

Secondly, in the amendment I'm wondering whether we couldn't discuss the advisability of changing the amendment to read in fact that the corporation upon payment of membership fees

(MR. BEARD cont'd) of not more than \$5.00 per year be required in the by-law so that there is a maximum set and that in fact if that's the assurance of the committee at this time, then perhaps that should be the amount that should be charged. I don't really think that is exorbitant; in fact, I think it's very small. In fact, I doubt whether it would cover the cost of sending out any of the director's minutes of their meetings. I think it should be more, maybe 10, 15 or 20 dollars - 25 dollars. I wouldn't object to that.

The real point that I would like to see in this is that the laymen be allowed to be brought in on this Committee as soon as possible and that certainly any reference to them having to be - what is it dental members - would be struck out and in fact, the assurance that at least 7 be dental members and the rest, if the lay membership required, by lay members; but this is not overloading it I don't think. In fact I'm very sure that even with this amendment in that in all probability the majority of the membership would be dentists. So that they would be, in fact, protected by their majority. But I would like to see the assurance that laymen be allowed to sit in a majority, if necessary, of 8, if they so voted it in because I don't think this would take away from the Dental Act and probably assist them with the things they want in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the amendment proposed by the Minister is, in fact, an improvement and I'm certainly prepared to support it. I think that the experience with Blue Cross some years ago is one that we can follow here with considerable value and I gather from what the Minister said that that is the objective that he has in mind. In the early days of Blue Cross, there wasn't as I recall it, any citizen membership on the board and later as time went on this was added by agreement completely with the medical profession and I think worked out quite well. In fact, it seems to me that the Blue Cross plan in Manitoba was a signal . . . Yes, the Minister may . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: May I just interrupt the member. I want to make sure, is Blue Cross the Manitoba Medical Service that he is referring to; I'm a little confused between the Hospital Plan and the . . .

MR. MOLGAT: I'm referring to the Hospital Plan that existed on a voluntary basis prior to the government take-over, which was a voluntary plan similar in substance to this and operated - no it was a medical plan, pardon me, it was a medical yes. The medical plan I'm referring to was a voluntary one operated by the medical profession and as years went on there were lay members added. This was in complete agreement with the medical profession and I think worked out very well. In fact, I was about to say, it seemed to me that the Blue Cross plan in Manitoba was a signal experiment in cooperation between the profession, between government and lay people to provide service and it was certainly an excellent service. I would hope then that in any amendments to this Act and in the approach to the Act, that we would follow the lessons which were learned in the operation of the Blue Cross Plan and I am sure that we can then develop a dental plan which will be very satisfactory for our people.

The amendment then seems to me provides for this. I gather from what the Minister says that the dental people involved are quite in agreement with these amendments and that it is being done in a spirit of cooperation.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, if I may, just so that I don't forget what has been said. I kind of wish that in this debate that I would be referred to as the Member for St. John's because I want to, I may forget every time I speak to mention that this is not a government bill. So again I'm speaking only because I volunteered to do this in my capacity as a member of this Assembly.

I want to deal with the points raised by the last two speakers firstly by saying that government involvement is only to the extent of an attempt to protect the plan in the event that the dentists set up their own insurance scheme similar to the Manitoba Medical Service Scheme that did exist before it was made a compulsory government operated plan as it is today.

One of the problems apparently that arose under the Manitoba Medical Services Plan was that there wasn't adequate reporting to the Superintendent of Insurance of their operations to accord with the insurance plan, and that's one of the things government wanted to make sure of, that there should be provision in this bill which would insure that that defect is remedied. But the dentists pointed out that this bill itself was something that they felt was an achievement amongst their own fraternity in Manitoba, which is a step in a direction which Dental Associations in other provinces have not yet gone for. The dentists themselves had to become convinced that this plan was good for them, because under this Bill, the dentists would be required to accept certain review of standards as to both quality of work, fees charged and authority to

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) do the work granted by review committee before the work is actually done. This therefore would restrict the dentists in the freedom that they may now have in dealing with patients and with the private insurers and the dentists feel that they are not ready to go into a dentist sponsored insurance plan and all they want now is to be able to set standards and qualifications that would be negotiated between the private insurers and the dentists, and they say therefore that until they bring in this Dentist Insured Plan that they should have control of the Corporation because it is one which will not be dealing with the public, but rather dealing between the dentists and the private insurers. They recognize should they then want to go into their own plan, such as the Manitoba Medical Services, that they will then have to change their operation to comply with the needs that purchasers of that plan, that is the projected plan which may or may not come into effect, that they would have a bigger say, and that is why the only protection that we could negotiate as between government and the dentists was that in the event they wanted to bring in Section 18, which is the one that enables them to go into a private plan of their own, then we could have the authority to impose all of the Insurance Act to make them proper insurers, or we could impose only those parts of the Insurance Act which are necessary to bring them in line with the Manitoba Medical Services operation; in which case we would be able to try to insist on the features raised by both the Member for Churchill and the Member for Ste. Rose of imposing on them the need to bring in lay members.

The only amendment now before us, which has already been passed by committee, says that there shall be a minimum of 7 dentists and that there shall be a minimum of 2 lay persons. That takes care of nine which leaves according to my quick arithmetic, 6 which could be either lay or dental and we have no guarantee as to what they will be unless Section 18 is brought into effect, in which case membership of lay people will be possible and then the majority of a membership would rule. That's the only kind of protection I can see for it.

May I say that in my negotiations I attempted to put on the board a maximum of dentists which would be not more than 50 percent, but they said that they felt that if that were done then they would be unsuccessful in bringing the dentists voluntarily under this operation in relation to private insurance companies and they said well then you might as well just withdraw the entire bill because we won't be able to sell it to our own membership. And I take them at their word, and again I speak as the Member for St. John's. I believe that that's what they intend to do. I believe that we have provided enough protection for government to intervene in the event that they bring in their own insurance scheme and I can only hope, along with the Member for Ste. Rose and the Member for Churchill, that we will be able to assert that, or if we can't then force them to comply on all fours and in all respects, with the entire Insurance Act.

I hope I'm making that clear; and again this is not a government bill but one which I will support because I think the dentists are showing an effort to start formulating some sort of action within their own Association to make this possible.

One other matter, I promised that I would bring in the motion in the words in which I brought them, that is the present by-law. If the Member for Churchill wants to make an amendment that say "the membership fees shall not exceed a certain amount," I will support him, but I must indicate to him that in doing so, I will do it as the Member for St. John's, and that I have already completed my task, which was my undertaking to bring in the amendment in its present form. If committee wants to change it, vary it, refuse it, that's up to committee and I'm not pushing at all for that but only promoting it in my own personal capacity as a member of the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, really I think the explanation that the Honourable Minister, Member for St. John's has given us, is sufficient, but there is one thing I would like to establish. There really is no control by the government of the fee or the monies to be collected. Now let me understand this. There is no feeling, you have indicated that there is some general understanding, but there is no control, even if the understanding was to be broken, they are capable of doing it, your action would be at the next session to determine what you wanted to do. All you are really talking is that there is some umbrella in which notice is given to you but really no control or nothing exercised by the government in connection with it.

MR. CHERNIACK: I think that interpretation is quite correct, and I recognize that as being a - I wasn't - I was thinking of the word "weakness" but I can't call it a weakness,

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . because it is a private bill and a private corporation would be established as a result and that's why I don't fear it too much because of the umbrella aspect, but I don't endorse it either, I just present it. I did indicate to the Member from Churchill that if he or indeed any other member wants to impose a limit, that's within the competence of the House and of the committee and I wouldn't oppose it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, my question then is to the Minister of Finance. Was there any discussion unofficially or officially between the group who were petitioning and the government with respect to the possibility of a government sponsored plan of Denticare?

MR. CHERNIACK: No Mr. Chairman, there were no discussions along this line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance that Section 2 of Section 9 of Bill 87 be struck out and the following subsection substituted therefor: 9(2) Where Section 18 applies every person entitled to benefits under any scheme operated by the corporation is entitled to become a lay member of the corporation upon payment of the membership fees as required in the by-laws of the corporation. Are you ready for the question on the motion?

MR. CHAIRMAN put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

(Sections 9 (2) to Title of Bill No. 134 were read and passed). Bill to be reported -- The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, before the bill is reported, I'd like to, if I may, make a comment with respect to the bill. I will be one along with many others I'm sure who will be supporting the bill. However, in the remarks that the Honourable Minister of Finance made just earlier -- (Interjection) -- the Member for St. John's, who is also the Minister of Finance, and I have to talk about him as the Minister of Finance when I say what I'm going to say now. He said that the government did not take a position on it, and I think that's probably correct; the government has not taken a position on the bill. But Mr. Chairman, the question one has to ask, in the light of what we have before us at the end of the session, is whether the government should have taken a position on it.

Mr. Chairman, I am one who believes that there are many who supported the New Democratic Party, who truly believe that they were intending to pioneer in those areas of social reform and social responsibility that other governments had not entered. I'm one who believes that Denticare, or its introduction, is a logical extension of Medicare and its philosophy. I'm one who believes that it would have been more prudent, but it would have been more expensive, and it would have taken a great deal of time and study, but it would have been more prudent, Mr. Chairman, to have pioneered the introduction of Denticare in this province rather than an attempt to steal an existing industry - for the alleged sake of attempting to try and bring to the public a savings which has not yet been proved.

Mr. Chairman, the members of the dental profession who have proposed this have probably introduced something that will ultimately lead to Denticare in this province; whether it will be the present government or whether it will be a new government to be formed in the future, it's my prediction that we will have in Manitoba within the decade of the 70's a Denticare program, because this is the logical extension of the medical health services total program, because I do not think you can divorce dental care from the just general concern of government to enter into the health field. The problem, Mr. Chairman, is then why was this not done. Why did the government not see fit at this point to try and introduce this in some form, and why did they not take a position on this rather than allow the Dental Association to come forward with a program which obviously will have tremendous pitfalls and which at first blush from the statements that have been made outside of this House of the indication of what the cost will be, will appear to be rather excessive for many people. Now I'm now quoting suggested costs that have been made with respect to this, although they as yet have not indicated their position publicly, nor will they, I guess, until they have this bill in operation.

I think if we review the arguments - and we're going to have an opportunity of reviewing this very soon - that have been presented by the government of the logical extension of government into the field of automobile insurance, well I'm one who does not believe that those arguments are as logical as the government would like to suggest, nor as valid; but the intent of those arguments, the basis on which the conclusions have been drawn by the government, apply in a far more real manner and are more significant with respect to the whole question of dental care, and like so much of what has happened in this session, regardless of some of the window dressing that occurs in part of the legislation that has been introduced by the government, the

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . government in this respect has copped out, and I suggest again continues to cop out in terms of its responsibility as a party that was committed to social reform and social progress in this community of Manitoba. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, well, the First Minister will obviously object to it. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, the First Minister's going to object to it, he's going to say lots of times. Well Mr. Chairman, we didn't go out to try and steal a business and try and knock people out of a livelihood and not pay them decent compensation, nor do we attempt to do that. What we attempted to do . . .

MR. SCHREYER: I know a few businessmen you put out of business. . .

MR. SPIVAK: . . . in the decade of the 60's. Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. SCHREYER: . . . bloody hypocrite - you put a few businessmen out of business and I know . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the honourable members to allow the Member for River Heights to complete his comments.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, the First Minister appears . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I would also ask the Member for River Heights to attempt to stay away from Bill 56. I think there'll be ample opportunity to discuss it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that you can stay away from Bill 56 when you talk about the principle of Denticare. I recognize the sensitivity of the First Minister, but I wish he would allow me the opportunity to complete my remarks and he can say whatever he wants, and he can use whatever adjectives he wants to use, that's up to him; and if he wants to demean himself that's his own concern. -- (Interjections) -- Mr. Chairman, let me suggest to you that a Denticare program, recognizing it would have to have been in a pioneer stage, an incomplete stage, introduced in this session, would have been a greater achievement, a far greater achievement for the people of Manitoba, and a far greater saving in terms of the cost to the people, than the kinds of programs that have been introduced in Bill 56 which we're going to be talking about shortly.

So Mr. Chairman, while I, for one, will give my approval for this, I suggest as well, that there was an opportunity because the Dental Association did show some leadership, for the government to have sat and worked with them, and had they applied, Mr. Chairman, the same energy, the same enthusiasm and the same amount of time and money that they did in trying to steal an auto insurance industry, then I think we would have had Denticare and I believe it would have been a far better social program for Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like now to speak as a member of the government caucus, not as the Member for St. John's alone. Mr. Chairman, it would be laughable, if the honourable member is a person who could be laughed at, to listen to him talk about what this government and this party has stood for over the years and to make demands on this government and this party to bring in social reform and social and economic changes.

Mr. Chairman, our position has been made clear over many many years. The position that we had on health services has been made clear over years. The debate that went on very recently when the Honourable Member for River Heights was a member of the government was one which redowns to the discredit of his party and his government and one which shows the real party which was interested in reform measures.

The question of Denticare, and I would guess with pretty good basis of fact, that even the word Denticare was introduced into this House by members of our party in opposition; and certainly we made it clear that this was one of the matters we felt that should be dealt with. We are not yet 12 months in total program that has been developed by this government while in power. It is just over 12 months that we took government and that was something that was very reluctantly given up by the Honourable Member for River Heights and his colleagues. And just the way they were reluctant to give up the control of government, just the way they were reluctant to bring in the Medical Services' bill. We said then, and I say now, that they were dragged, kicking their heels and dragging their feet and trying to dig in every possible way in opposition to that very great step which was made in bringing in the present Medical Health Services. They fought it publicly, they fought it with the Federal Government and they were forced to bring it in and the reason they brought it in is because of intervention of the Federal Government into this field. And they didn't want it, and they said so, and they didn't like it and they said so, and they brought it in and it was very much in accord with what we had proposed. Now the Member for Swan River, who hasn't been able to speak from his sitting

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . position for some time now, wishes to do so to renew his method.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): If I may interrupt, I said we said it was expensive, and it's turned out to be too.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm sorry I didn't hear the honourable member. If he thinks it's worth repeating I'll certainly sit down and listen to it again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . the Member for Swan River to repeat that comment. He can make it in debate if he wishes.

MR. CHERNIACK: I just want to inform him that I didn't hear what he said so I can't comment on it. Mr. Chairman, it's a very peculiar metamorphosis that has gone through the Member for River Heights, who has turned into a rather embittered gentleman and one who is now ready to adopt so many of the programs of the New Democratic Party that he is impatient, it would appear, with how we have progressed in the last 12 months. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that we have done a magnificent job in bringing in the legislation that we have done, much of which was supported by the Opposition, much of which they should have done and could have done, and for them now to get up and accuse us of not doing those things that we ourselves want to do, in the matter of less than a year, is most peculiar and completely impossible to understand except to suggest that either they have had their eyes opened to the needs of the people of Manitoba or else they have had their eyes opened to their own inability in the past to carry out these essential programs. For a government that was in power for 10 years now to say that it was up to us to bring in all of this legislation which they have proposed, is fantastic, Mr. Chairman. For them to say that we should have done it now is just ludicrous, when they had 10 years to develop this kind of program if indeed they meant it. And I don't believe they meant it and their actions on the Medicare issue certainly indicate that they had no such desire.

Now it may well be that the Member for River Heights wanted to do it; it may well be that the Member for Fort Garry wanted to do it because he, too, has been trying to get into this discussion, so maybe those two did, but obviously, if they wanted to and tried, they couldn't succeed with their own people. Now, I don't know if they tried; they haven't told us that they tried; they haven't told us that they failed; but the fact is that the government of the Progressive Conservative party has certainly, after 10 years, failed to do those very things that they are now saying we should have done in this time. And that is what I consider ridiculous in the extreme.

Now the honourable member admits that the question of Denticare would take a lot of time, and I think he also said it would take a lot of money and I think that we should apologize to no one for being prudent - which is the word he used - cautious in what we do, so that we can properly assess what we are doing and how we are going to accomplish it.

Now I know he's going to start speaking about other legislation that's before us but I won't be drawn into that debate at this time. I want to participate in that debate at the right time and will do so, but I say only now that this private bill that came before us gave us only an indication that the dentists of Manitoba - and I'm told unlike the dentists in other provinces - are now prepared to work together to try and make something more palatable than it was.

Now the Member for River Heights made some mention of the cost of what is likely to result from the present Bill. I don't see that the cost will be any different than it is today because indeed they are talking about the present private plan. Those costs, of which I'm not aware, are now known and the dentists, I believe, are trying to negotiate so that it doesn't rise. Now maybe it will. The most peculiar thing again is - and this is something we do want to bear in mind - is that when we pleaded with the Conservative Party in government to enact the Medical Health Services legislation much earlier than we did, we pointed out that they had given to the doctors the opportunity to raise their fees; they had given to the medical profession enough lead time so that the medical profession could prepare to raise the fees and the schedule, their schedule of fees, and I remember how the Member for St. Boniface spoke about the schedule of fees payable to the doctors which was in no way controlled by government of that day, which permitted it to happen. And this again is an indication of how dilatory they were in carrying out that program and I say it was because they didn't want to do it. They were forced to do it and they did it reluctantly.

When the time comes that we are ready to take on an extension of health service programs, we will not do it reluctantly, we will do it enthusiastically; we'll do it with the same kind of enthusiasm that we brought to bear, almost a year ago, when we changed the formula

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) for the provision of the cost of health services in the medical field. We did it with pride; we were attacked by that side; and now we have heard, and I recall particularly the Member for Lakeview saying that it was pretty clear to him anyway - and now I'm really paraphrasing him and he can correct me, if he were listening, but he may yet correct me if he reads the record - I believe that he admitted that they were wrong in imposing the flat premium tax. Whether he felt they were wrong politically or felt they were wrong in connection with the taxpayer himself, is not that clear to me. They were clearly wrong politically; that was proven, but as far as the equity to the people who required the services of the health scheme, clearly they were wrong and I believe that the Member for Lakeview intimated that he thought so too, but again, I may be wrong. -- (Interjection) -- Lakeside, I'm sorry. That was certainly not deliberate and I realize now that had I said "Lakeside" the first time he would have turned to listen to what I was saying because he has now done so. So I apologize to him for using the wrong designation and therefore I lost his attention because he did not realize I was speaking about him.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, it's very interesting that the members on the opposite side seem to think that during the 10 years or 11 years of the Conservative administration, most of the things that the Conservative administration brought in were brought in reluctantly as a result of the Opposition suggesting that this is what should be done. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we have a phenomenon that in the 11 years that the Conservatives were in power, the legislation that came forward did not come of their own volition; in fact, they did not make the decision, they did not exercise their majority to have it come in, but rather it came as a result of the recommendations and the enthusiasm and the approach of the few members of the Opposition who were then the New Democratic Party, and that, in effect, if they did vote for it they only voted for it reluctantly, and if they did introduce it they obviously only introduced it because - they didn't want to, but because of the valid and logical arguments presented by the present government.

Well, Mr. Chairman, that doesn't wash. It just doesn't wash -- (Interjection) -- well, the First Minister can always speak in the debate and I would welcome listening at his opportunity, but that doesn't wash. It's nice to suggest that Medicare came as a result of the present government - they were the ones that were responsible for it, but the truth of the matter is that they weren't government then. The truth of the matter is that their numbers were pretty insignificant at that time, and I must say, Mr. Chairman, if I'm correct, that the government majority brought the Bill in and put it into operation. Now, that's one aspect.

The second aspect is that the Minister of Finance talked about being prudent and cautious - now we're going to become prudent and cautious with respect to the issue of dental care and health services. It's obviously a government promise, it's in their plank - this is what he suggested. They mentioned Denticare before so we can assume that it will occur.

MR. CHERNIACK: May I raise it as a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman? I don't think I said it was in our program; I said - well, may I change the word "program" to "platform". I think I said that it was part of our long-range objective.

MR. SPIVAK: Well Mr. Chairman, if this is part of a long-range objective then I suggest, Mr. Chairman, you have to make an assessment in 1970, regardless of who the government is, as to what kind of society we want and how we are going to assess our objectives. --(Interjection) -- Yes. The First Minister agrees, of course, and I suggest, Mr. Chairman, and this is the appropriate time to say it, that in viewing the question of Denticare and in viewing the question of Bill 56 and its specific implications for Manitoba and its dislocative effect in the state of the economy as it exists in Manitoba and Canada today, one then has to look both at the short-term objectives and the long-term objectives. Now it's pretty obvious in the financial condition Bill 56 will not cost the government anything. In fact, the government is going to realize 25 to \$30 million in their pocket right away by March 1st when people have to pay for the licences. So in that case, Mr. Chairman, we have a very simple principle.

MR. SCHREYER: Are you serious? You're not serious!

MR. SPIVAK: We have a very simple principle; we will realize into the Provincial Treasury \$25 million, 12 of which we may be able to use for a period of time.

MR. SCHREYER: Are you serious about that?

MR. SPIVAK: And now, Mr. Chairman, we can't talk in terms of Denticare because Denticare involves an expense, Denticare involves the mobilization of resources in a different way, and Denticare may in fact affect the public purse. And Mr. Chairman, I repeat again, if you examine what kind of society we want in Manitoba today and what we are looking for in '70, we must talk in terms of a humane society that would be concerned with people, and being concerned with people isn't an attempt to try and mislead them into believing that they are going to save \$15.00 a year on auto insurance, but being concerned with people is introducing a logical extension of the medical services program which is obviously a long-term commitment of the government.

Now I'm not suggesting that the program could have been introduced this year in its final form but I am suggesting that all the energy and all the enthusiasm and all the time and money of all the government members --(Interjection)-- Money yes, because the Pawley Commission cost money - and all of this, Mr. Chairman, could have been devoted and spent in trying to work out a program such as Denticare which has far greater priority for Manitoba, far better in the long run and much more humane in terms of society's wants, because I don't

(MR. SPIVAK con't) think there's so much humanity on the part of the government in throwing a lot of people out of work and dislocating them and telling them that they are going through a transitional period because of change, because if we're talking about change, Mr. Chairman, then the real change that could have occurred in our society and the real kind of leadership that was expected by many of the supporters on the other side, was that they would lead in the field affecting the people, and Denticare was a logical extension.

Well, you know, the Minister of Finance says that we will, but the point is you had an opportunity to do it; you had an opportunity to show it; and what have you done? You've taken the route of going to the people with a program in which you were going to make an alleged saving - no proof - just the statement of five people on the other side; nothing in the Bill; and in which case you are going to be able to take from the people the sum of 25 to \$30 million almost at one time.

Having done that, you are now going to say to them, "Maybe we will save you \$15.00." Well Mr. Chairman, I ask you to make an estimate and a guesstimate as to which was the more proper thing, which was in the best interests of the people, which was the logical extension of the kind of people's program that they have stood up for, and I ask, Mr. Chairman, which should have been done, and I believe it should have been in the Denticare field.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I did want to get to my feet a little earlier. The Minister of Finance has certainly answered most of the points that I wanted to raise but there were some features of the Honourable Member for River Heights' address that I felt that I would like to deal with.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, the Member for River Heights says that we are claiming that everything that the government did in the last 11 years came, not as a result of their initiative, but as a result of our initiative in pursuing these programs and pushing them, and I didn't hear the Minister of Finance say that and I want to assure the Honourable Member for River Heights that it is not so. I don't claim credit for the things that they did in the last 11 years. I don't claim that we urged them to implement the 5 percent sales tax. I don't claim that we urged them to give \$92 million to the Churchill Forest Industry on the basis of their economic program. I don't, Mr. Chairman, urge that it was my idea or the idea of any member on this side of the House that the government take the position that \$100 million could be put into the hands of people who were not the "Three Stooges" and that the public had no right to know what they were doing. I don't claim credit for all of those things. I agree that they were solely the initiative of the Member for River Heights and his cohorts, and to their credit, if that's what they want, I disclaim any responsibility and I'm sure that my honourable friends on this side of the House do not want to in any way steal the glory of those particular programs that he is talking about and many others, Mr. Chairman, which I could name but I don't want to. I let them live with their record, their history, and whatever credit they deserve for that, they get.

But Mr. Chairman, on the one issue that the Minister of Finance did speak, is it not a fact that the Minister of Health from the chair next to me, the Honourable Mr. Witney, got up and said exactly what the Minister of Finance has said, that we don't like this program; that we would not enact this type of program; that we believe in a voluntary scheme; that we believe in a scheme --(Interjection)-- He did not say that? Mr. Chairman, if the Member for River Heights - I don't want to yield the floor to a speech but if he will indicate to me by nodding his head that he is merely going to answer that question, then I will let him answer, but if he is going to make a speech, then I don't want to yield the floor.

But I was in the House, Mr. Chairman, when the Honourable Mr. Witney and the Honourable the First Minister, Mr. Weir - they said an interesting thing, and the Premier wasn't here - you know what the First Minister said? He said that the bill should be tested in the courts. He said that the Medicare legislation - and you know it runs a perfect string, because that's now what they are saying about the automobile insurance bill. He said they should be tested, this thing should be tested in the courts because it's beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Government to pay money in areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Now I ask the members of this House to consider the dilemma, to consider the dilemma that these legal people present to the people of the country when they want to do something. The legal people, the Bar Association, had the nerve to suggest that the people could not get together and pool their money and provide a different form of automobile insurance; that it would be beyond their jurisdiction to do it, and why? Because they said that certain corporations, incorporated by the Federal Government are doing business in Manitoba, and if

(MR. GREEN cont'd) they are doing business in Manitoba and the people want to undertake that business, it effectively prohibits them and therefore is ultra vires legislation, which means, if we accept that, that any area which the public is interested in involving itself in, all that has to happen is that somebody has to incorporate a federal company and the Federal Government is without limits as to what they can incorporate - they can incorporate companies in provincial fields or federal fields, and the member is nodding his head - have that company operate in all of the 10 provinces and then the provinces would be ultra vires in dealing with this question.

Now, then you would then go to the Federal Government and you would run head-on into Mr. Trudeau who says yes, we would like to initiate social change, but all of the areas of social change are really within the constitutional jurisdiction of the provinces so we can't institute it because it is ultra vires. So it's ultra vires in the province because there happens to be a federal company incorporated carrying on the business; it's ultra vires in the Federal Government because Mr. Trudeau says it is, and what they are really saying is that social change is illegal in Canada or in its provinces. If the argument were sound, it would effectively say that social change is illegal, that the only thing that is legal is the divine right of the existing status quo to continue exactly as it is.

And that is really what the Honourable Member for River Heights wants, and what was said about Medicare from the seat next to me and from the First Minister's seat, was exactly what the Minister of Finance said. Mr. Witney got up in the House (I was here); he said that we don't like to go into this program, we would rather not go into this program, but the Federal Government has put \$30 million on the table; we can't let it sit there, and therefore we are being blackmailed. Those, I believe, were his words, and words of members of the opposite side, and don't they now agree? Doesn't the Member for Swan River, who spoke a few minutes ago, doesn't he agree that your administration was blackmailed into going into the medical care program as it now stands?

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Honourable Minister would permit a question?

MR. GREEN: Certainly.

MR. BILTON: In exercising his prerogative in using that word "blackmail" I don't recall it and I wonder if he has the evidence before him?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I recall the word being used, that we were being "blackmailed" into going into this program. If they weren't used, then my recollection is wrong but I do recall that - do not the members of the other side, do they not say that they were being pressured or intimidated, that they didn't want the program but that they were forced to go into it? Is that not what took place?

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question?

MR. GREEN: Sure. If the honourable member sincerely wants the floor on a question - and I will accept his word to that effect - and he doesn't want to make a speech, I will yield to a question. If he intends to use the question for making a speech, I don't want to yield to his question. I leave it to him and his honour to deal with it.

MR. SPIVAK: I have a question Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure that with that kind of condition or the indication of that condition that I'm going to address it to him.

MR. GREEN: Well Mr. Chairman, the fact is that the Honourable Member for River Heights said that we should have brought in a greater social change in that we should have been dealing with Denticare rather than automobile insurance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we didn't only go to the people on our social program and it's the members of the opposite side who used to say continuously that the New Democrats, oh, yes, they want a great deal of social program but it's going to cost money and where will the money come from? If I heard that once I heard it a thousand times: Where will the money come from? Do the members of that side now say that we should be implementing at this stage a Denticare program? Because there is a valid fiscal problem involved and we wouldn't go first to Denticare. I indicated to the members of the House last year that certainly we would go to drugs before we went to Denticare, but we made it very clear in the Speech from the Throne that at this session - not forever and a day but at this session - we would deal with those aspects of the New Democratic Party program which did not involve substantial fiscal changes, which did not involve taxation, and we did it for two reasons, Mr. Chairman. One was to implement these programs which are very important - the program relating to landlord and tenant; the program relating to the right of citizens to not be subjected to discriminatory types of injunctions by the court; the right of citizens to be

(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . protected by human rights legislation; and all of the other bills, many of which - the cancellation of deposits in elections; many many things which we had advocated on that side of the House which we said would not cost money and the honourable members, they disagreed with us. The opposition said oh, you people are going to spend us into bankruptcy. But the entire legislative session has been involved primarily - and I don't want to say exclusively, some things certainly deal with spending - but primarily the thrust of the session was to deal with those aspects of the program which did not involve expenditures of money.

And it's true. The automobile insurance program which the honourable member refers to is not a spending program. It is an advantageous program, advantageous for various reasons. One of the reasons is that it can provide the automobile insurance service more efficiently, more fairly and less expensively. Yes. The Honourable Member for River Heights disagrees. He says we haven't proved it.

MR. SPIVAK: You haven't proved it at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. May I ask the Honourable House Leader to only allude to Bill 56 and not to dwell on it. I know he is just beginning his comments but I do not wish to entertain a massive debate.

MR. GREEN: Well Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to dwell on this but I'm going to allude to it in terms of the general program which the Member for River Heights talks about Denticare. I'm surprised he's not asking about the dentist-patient relationship. I'm surprised he's not asking about why this will be a compulsory plan. I'm surprised he's not asking the thousand questions which were raised by those members on that side of the House when we were arguing Medicare. Now he becomes the advocate of what I concede to be a dental program. What he is saying is that we should have a dental program, financed by the public, so that every person's child can go to the dentist and receive proper dental care.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome that type of suggestion but I say that the Conservative Party, despite the Member for River Heights, will not go for that type of suggestion. That is the fact, because they were in principle against the Medicare Bill and they are in principle against this suggestion. I have never heard, I have never heard the Conservative Party in any election campaign, in any suggestion to the people, that they want such a program.

We say we do want it and we say that there is no harm in it coming in by degrees, and certainly you can't stop the dentists from doing it, but the fact is, Mr. Chairman, to get back to what you told me not to dwell on, the fact is that there is advantage in the people of Manitoba controlling a greater amount of their economy, and if that is one of the advantages of the automobile insurance legislation, well who said that that should not be so? Who said that that should not - the Member for River Heights says why not bread? Mr. Chairman, if you could - you know, I'll try and deal with his questions as he's putting them - if you could guarantee, and this I can't, but if the Member for River Heights could guarantee it I might vote for him; if he could guarantee that the same type of variety, that the same type of service, that the same type of ingenuity that goes into the distribution and production of bread products could be done publicly at 50 percent of the cost, which is what he said, then there isn't a politician in this country who would be able to withstand implementing such a program. There isn't a politician in the country, because to suggest that you can provide the same service at half the cost, the same ingenuity, the same service, well this is what we are doing with automobile insurance. --(Interjection)--

You were the one who got up in this House. Mr. Chairman, the Member for River Heights got up in this House and said you could reduce the price of bread by 50 percent, and I will go to Hansard if he wants me to, you could reduce the price of bread by 50 percent if you handled it publicly. Nobody on that side would agree with him. There isn't a deskmate on his side who would agree with him, but he said it, and I'm saying that if you could do that and maintain exactly the same service, the same ingenuity, the same type of imagination that goes into making the product a little different each time, if you could do it there isn't a politician in the country who could vote against it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. The honourable member has suggested that I made a statement with respect to . . . bread at 50 percent. Well I have a suspicion that that statement is not in complete context; I think I did indicate, and I think this is what I did say, that if you eliminated the middle man, you would have the same thing that you have done with auto insurance, which is to eliminate the middle man and

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . . eliminate his commission, and that certainly . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, that is not what the Honourable Member for River Heights said. He doesn't remember what he said.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . on a point of privilege, unless the honourable minister has the evidence to support . . .

MR. GREEN: Well Mr. Chairman, I will produce the evidence because I remember the remark very clearly. The Honourable Member is not able to refute it. He said, "I don't think that's what I said."

MR. SPIVAK: I said I think it's been taken out of context.

MR. GREEN: Taken out of context is not a refutation.

MR. SPIVAK: I think I know the position I took because I expressed it in this House, and that was simply that if you eliminated the middle man you obviously are going to have added a saving to offer to the people, and the middle man's saving, I believe, on bread is a little bit higher than on auto insurance.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I say that the suggestion that I have taken something out of context is not a point of privilege. I am saying that the Honourable Member for River Heights got up in this House and said that you could reduce the price of bread by 50 percent if it was handled publicly. I don't believe it. I really think that if it could be done that it would be dangerous to tell the people of Manitoba, to tell the average person in Manitoba that he is paying twice as much for the loaf of bread that he is buying because it's being handled inefficiently. I don't know that we could reduce it at all. I never said that we could. You were the one who said you could reduce it by 50 percent. I happen to think that the production and distribution of bread is an area which cannot be handled as efficiently at the present time as it is now being handled, and I never said so.

Well Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is astonished because I am not taking, and I have never taken in the three years, in the four years that I have sat here in which every time they don't have an answer they refer to me as a doctrinaire socialist because they have no other answer, but in those four years I have never taken a dogmatic position on one issue or another, and I'm saying that on this issue the honourable member just does not make sense. But Mr. Chairman, I have only just dealt with the substance of my honourable friend's remarks. He did two other things which I think should go on record in this House. He said, I believe, in his earlier remarks on two occasions, or maybe it was on three, he deliberately said that the government is stealing this industry, you know, and that's the kind of rhetoric which I feel he must think is going to do his case some good. I know that --(Interjection)-- Well Mr. Chairman, I want to speak to the remarks that we are stealing.

MR. SPIVAK: Well that's too bad. The facts speak for themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure that those remarks are relevant to the Dental Services Corporation Act. They may be relevant to Bill 56.

MR. GREEN: Well Mr. Chairman, I will just deal with the reference of not stealing from the dentists. You see, the Dental Services Bill, if operated in the way that my honourable friend says it should be, and I'll bring it in very clearly, if operated as a medical care scheme on the same basis, would take away business from the insurance companies who are now providing . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . permit a question?

MR. GREEN: No, I'm not going to yield to a question because I see that the questions are not questions.

MR. McKELLAR: How do you know?

MR. GREEN: I know it intuitively. I can tell what is going on, and I say to you, I say to the Honourable Member for River Heights, that if the government went into a dental care scheme, which I agree with, on the basis of the medical care scheme, we would be doing the insurance companies out of business. There are businesses in Manitoba, probably Canadian incorporated, and I'm surprised he doesn't say it is ultra vires. If he was consistent, or what is more likely is that he knows that the Bar Association brief made no sense on that score whatsoever, but if he is consistent he would say that for the government to go into a dental care scheme on the same basis as the Medicare scheme was ultra vires and that it was stealing from those insurance companies who are now providing dental insurance, which is absolutely ridiculous, but that's the word he wants to use, and Mr.

(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . . Speaker, he uses that word for a very good purpose, in his mind, because I have heard the invective on the other side. I have heard it and I know that it can be inspired and I know that I have not used it. I know that I have sat in this House, I have never said a bad word against anybody who has made money. I have tried to make as much money as I can and I think that that is a legitimate pursuit of anybody in this society, and I have never called it stealing, but I have heard it called stealing and if the honourable member is going to say that the public trying to operate its own service is stealing, then he is inviting the kind of class hatred which he accused the Minister of Municipal Affairs of doing, because it's not stealing; it is operating - well Mr. Chairman, if I wanted to, I could go back to history and I could go back to recent days and show you that the people who feel the other way think that the existing method of supplying insurance is a theft on the public. I have never said it, and I don't agree with it. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Souris-Killarney says that I said it, and on a point of privilege I say that I have not said it. As a matter of fact, I'll relate what happened. I said that the prices charged for insurance were excessive. The Member for Souris-Killarney got up and said to me, "Are you suggesting that the insurance companies are stealing from the people?" and I said no. He said, "Did you ever suggest that they are charging excessive prices?" And I said yes, and if you say that charging excessive prices is stealing, then you say they are stealing, but I have never said it. I have never said so. And Mr. Chairman, I don't think that they are. I think that they are operating within our economy . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, and I am enjoying the contribution of the Minister, but are we on Bill 56?

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Chairman. Denticare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well I would just point out that I have attempted to . . . Order.

MR. GREEN: I know that you don't like it but that's the way he dealt with it and that's the way I'm dealing with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have directed the Minister, the Honourable Minister several times and I think he has come back to the bill, and I would also ask the members of the Opposition not to lead him astray.

MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. On a point of order, I would like to suggest that there is no way members on this side could arrive at certain goals ahead of my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I think that was the understatement of the session.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the fact is that what I have said cannot be denied, that the fact is true, that when the Government of Canada enacted the bill regarding interest, and previous to that, I think their limit on interest on loans up to \$1,500 was 6 percent, I can't remember, but the fact is that the honourable member on that basis would accuse the government of stealing from those people who were making more than 6 percent because it dealt with their businesses. When the government of Manitoba enacted a Minimum Wage Law which said that it goes to \$1.25 to \$1.50, the Honourable Member from River Heights could have said that that was stealing if he wanted to, and Mr. Chairman, the other side, there are people on the other end of the scale to the Honourable Member for River Heights who will call the existing system as one of theft, and that will not solve the argument. That will create the kind of class warfare that the Member for River Heights says he is so determined it should be avoided, and Mr. Chairman, if that's the basis upon which he hopes to defeat the government, and if he succeeds, then I can suggest to you that he will have inspired the very, very bitter type of conflict in this society which he suggests he is anxious to avoid. Now he can do that but he should do it consciously. He did that, Mr. Speaker, and he did another thing. At committee when a certain thing was passed. . .

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, I have no objection to the honourable member making all the accusations he wants and I'm going to have an opportunity to debate with him. Mr. Chairman, I'm quite prepared to debate this bill. He's a little bit off; he is now mentioning about the committee. Now I have no objection to that. If he is going to do that that's fine, but I would like the opportunity to reply, because I have listened with a great deal of patience, hoping that he would cool his temper. He hasn't, and I'm not necessarily prepared, Mr. Chairman, to allow this to

(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . . continue without objecting very strenuously because it is beyond this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well I have attempted, I have attempted to restrain members. I think that the Honourable Member for River Heights has strayed slightly and gotten into other areas. I think the Minister of Finance got slightly off the topic, and I'm trying to restrain the present speaker. I have to ask for cooperation on all sides and to redirect members to this bill and I know that we can't stick just precisely to the bill itself, that other examples may be drawn in and other comments made, but again I appeal to all members to stay away from Bill 56 and to stay away from past elections and other rhetoric and to try to deal with Bill 87 as precisely as they can.

MR. GREEN: Well Mr. Chairman I am merely dealing with remarks now of my honourable friend's speech on this bill, and if he thinks that he can call me a stealer and that I should still maintain my relatively involatile composure, then I say to him that I can't; that I don't take kindly to being called a stealer. And I tell him that other people don't take kindly to being called a stealer and that if that's the way he hopes to gain the support of the public, and if he gains it on that type of invective, then he will not have succeeded in doing anything because the invective will come the other way.

I say that at that stage, that although I have tried to argue on the basis of what I think is right, proper and just, that that argument will go by the board if the honourable member succeeds by calling the public stealers. If the honourable member feels that simulating to me - and he knows better - that I am behaving like a Nazi by giving me a Nazi salute in committee, if he thinks that doing that can be done without in any way arousing my emotions or my temper or my anger, then I tell him that I cannot sit completely impassive while he accuses me of being a Nazi, and I tell him that.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of privilege, the Minister has made particular references to my accusing him and I'm quite prepared to allow him to continue, but I would insist, Mr. Chairman, that I'm going to have an opportunity for rebuttal of those charges and those statements. I have made the statement stealing, and I'm quite prepared to back that statement up, and I'm quite prepared now and in Bill 56 to debate it. I think when you do not pay fair compensation for persons whose business you are expropriating, then I suggest it's stealing and I don't care whether the honourable member thinks it's not or doesn't. I am saying there is no other way of viewing that.

MR. GREEN: What is the point of order? What am I being interrupted on?

MR. SPIVAK: I am saying, I have used an adjective, I am prepared to back it up. Now the honourable member is now going into another . . . and that's fine, but I insist that I'm going to have the opportunity of . . .

MR. GREEN: You'll be able to do anything that's in order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well I think the House Leader is, I believe the House Leader is concluding his comments and I would ask him again to attempt to stay off Bill 56.

MR. GREEN: I am saying that in the remarks that were made by my honourable friend on this bill today he has demonstrated that he is going to pursue a line of attack which he himself about a week ago said would greatly destroy the good feeling in our community; that I back that up by saying that he has chosen to use as his debate the expression "stealing"; that I know that the people of the extreme left, and other people, have called the existing system stealing; that they will be encouraged by my honourable friend's remarks; that I don't believe that that is a good thing and I warned the honourable member that that is what he is embarking on. I say consistent with that type of attack he saw fit to direct to myself and the Honourable Minister of Finance, and we're sitting across the table from him, when a certain measure was passed in committee which went against his liking, he saw fit to say that rather than raising our hand straight up that we should raise it in a Nazi salute. That's what he did, and Mr. Chairman, I say that that is consistent with what he is now doing; that is consistent in approach which says that he is going to use any means whatsoever, whatever he can, and I know that the public will not accept this. I know that he will lose. I know that I have never had to use - and the honourable members can look at my entire political career - I have never had to use that type of an attack to win support because that attack will not win support, but the honourable member is doing that, and if I am wrong, which I hope and pray that I am not wrong, that this will not accrue to his benefit. If he thinks that the public will go for that type of an attack, then he is going to create a worse problem than he thinks that he is going to solve.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. On a point of privilege. The honourable member . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the honourable member may now enter the debate if he wishes.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I'm going to enter debate but my entry is on the remarks that have been made by the Honourable Minister and therefore I'm going to do it by way of privilege.

Mr. Chairman, there have been certain things that have been imputed to me by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, and he can leave it on his conscience to determine whether he feels that this was justified or not. Now I think that the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources can be forgiven quite a bit because he's had to carry the whole shoulder of the government for the last four months and that's not an easy task, and anyone who's been in the committee and anyone who's been in this House knows that to be true and anyone who suggests that that isn't true is mistaken.

Now Mr. Chairman, that's one thing. Secondly, I don't object to the fact that his thinking patterns are not as logical as they usually are or that he appears to be fuzzy, but I do - and I'm going to suggest to him - resent the fact that he's not prepared to admit to himself, because this is what is really involved in this, that when individuals came before that committee and they told their individual stories of having to go into bankruptcy, of the liabilities that they had, and they related to the compensation that was being given to them as a result of the government going into this kind of expropriation, and if he does not feel in his conscience and his mind that that isn't stealing, then I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

We can argue the principle of whether the government should or should not get into the automobile insurance bill, and the members on that side can argue and we can argue, but Mr. Chairman, on the question of compensation . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. May I ask the honourable member whether he is - is speaking on a point of privilege?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he therefore . . . ?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. There was a reference made to a particular --(Interjection)-- Yes. Yes I think, if I'm correct, I was called a "s. o. b." by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, which he thinks is all right - you know, that's perfectly permissible. And Mr. Chairman, I've been subjected to the most invective by the members on the opposite side, part by accident and part deliberately, and there's no question about that. And that's all right from their point of view in terms of their strategy; there's nothing objectionable in that, and anyone who reads the record knows that there's been a deliberate attempt, a deliberate attempt on the part of the government to be able to use invective to try and discredit me and the argument. One of the interesting things, Mr. Chairman, is that there always is a distortion of every position that's ever presented because we just go around it. We bring up Churchill Forest; we start talking about the transitional thing of the auto tax agreement, as if anybody has not read it, and if that is in fact something which you can hang the hat on.

Now Mr. Chairman, let me suggest to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I sat in that committee and heard a witness give his presentation of his personal situation, and I questioned him on that and I looked and examined very carefully the attitude of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Oblivious, not concerned, not humane, no compassion for a situation where a person presented his personal situation. --(Interjection)-- Yes, I'm as intuitive as the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and I can figure it out, and anybody sitting on that committee. And Mr. Chairman, I'm only sorry that the people of Manitoba did not have a television program, a televised hearing of that committee, because Mr. Chairman, more than anything else that media would have exposed the government in the . . . that they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order, please.

MR. SCHREYER: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes. That is precisely my point of order. You indicated, Sir, that the Member for River Heights might wish to take the floor and resume the debate. The Honourable Member rose . . .

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm on a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Then I rise on a point of parliamentary privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Perhaps I could clear this up by making a short comment that would satisfy both members. I believe that, you know, we're under some strain here, and may I just say, may I say that it is very difficult to curtail debate when it starts opening up, and because one side opens it up the other opens it up wider and at some point we'll be into a full-scale debate on another bill, so I would appeal to the Member for River Heights who is the present speaker, that he attempt to limit his remarks - he says he's speaking on a point of privilege - I'd ask him to continue his point of privilege but I would ask him, and I would plead with him, like all members of this House, to attempt to deal with the specific bill before us, not to engage in a debate which we will very shortly be in and which will have full range of opportunity to speak and deliberate. So I appeal to the member again, as I did to the Minister of Mines, to stay off, as much as possible, Bill 56 and to concentrate on the bill before us so that we can proceed with the business of this House.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I'll conclude that point of privilege and then go on to the matter of the debate by just making reference to the question of divisiveness. Mr. Chairman, I think it's extremely divisive to have suggested a bill that takes away a person's living without any compensation. I think that's divisive because I think the person affected, I think his family and his friends become concerned. Yes Mr. Chairman, that's all I know is that they're being taken away without any compensation of any degree of significance being paid.

MR. SCHREYER: That's not true; that's not true.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, the pittance that the Honourable First Minister likes to suggest is a gratuitous amount, I think is ridiculous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . the member to redirect his comments to Bill 87.

MR. SPIVAK: I'm only indicating that in terms of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, to me their action is far more divisive than my statements. My statements happen to put in a descriptive term what is actually taking place. Now if they can't see it, I'm sorry for them. This is one of the big problems because I am sorry for them --(Interjection)-- No, I really am sorry for them because what they're doing is harming not only the few people by comparison of the totality, the total numbers in Manitoba who are directly affected, and those indirectly affected, but they're also affecting the image of this province; they're also affecting in the long run, I believe, and we'll have opportunity - the whole economic future of this province by a very silly act taking somebody's livelihood away without paying compensation, and I believe that that's true and we'll have an opportunity to discuss it.

But now let's come back to the question of the Denticare situation. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources says that Denticare would require a substantial fiscal change and the thrust of our session has been in what he referred to a few items, the Landlord and Tenant and a few of the other things. Well, it's interesting, the Landlord and Tenant Act is now in force and very shortly the people in Greater Winnipeg and Manitoba are going to have their rents raised as a result of the Landlord and Tenant Act, and we're going to see, you know, how that really helped the people as a result of the changes. And when the people go to the mortgage companies and the insurance companies to try and get financing and find that it isn't available because of that same Landlord and Tenant Act, and when the housing accommodation isn't built, then we'll see how good and how wonderful this was.

But Mr. Chairman, if we really want to examine the substantial thrust of what the government has done this session, instead of going to those areas of social reform that they really consider as one of their, or as their objective, they've gone into a field that's an interesting one, one in which they do not have substantial fiscal change because they don't have to in any way alter the tax structure, but where they can get the public to pay in money that they then are going to be in a position to use immediately. And that's what they've done. That's what happened. We'll have 25 or \$30 million paid over to the Minister of Finance to do what he wants as of March 1st, and anyone who doesn't believe that that isn't part of the benefit of this total program should recall the words of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources who says they are. There are side benefits.

MR. GREEN: Certainly, there's no question.

MR. SPIVAK: Well Mr. Chairman, I'm going to suggest that those side benefits are not side benefits; those are one of the real benefits and one of the purposes and reasons for the government entering into that bill, and I suggest, Mr. Chairman, in doing this . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order . . .

MR. GREEN: I didn't say side benefits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister has a point of order?

MR. SCHREYER: Right. I attempted to raise it earlier, Sir, but it was difficult to do so because the Member for River Heights ostensibly was speaking on a point of privilege, but my understanding of the rule about a point of privilege is that the member rising on a point of privilege must get to the point quickly. The honourable member rose on a point of privilege, so he said, and then proceeded to debate the substance of certain bills before this Assembly, and I suggest to you, Sir, that when that happens, then a person who attempts to rise on a point of privilege should be told by the Chair that he is obviously deviating from what he regards as the point of privilege.

Now at this point in time, the honourable member is, just a few minutes after he said he was going to get back to the subject matter of Denticare, is again deviating and dealing with matters far removed from Denticare services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . the honourable member concluded his point of privilege and is now making a comment on Bill 87, and I would ask him to again deal with the Bill.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, if anyone was concerned that my remarks did not hit the mark as far as the government is concerned, all they had to do was listen to the debate for the last hour and a half because I think we've seen a demonstration of how sensitive they are in this area.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The honourable member, in his own words, has just proven that he is not dealing with the subject matter of the Bill. He said his words got us, were on the mark of the government. What is before us now is the mark of Bill 87.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes Mr. Chairman, and this is exactly the point. I'm glad the First Minister rose to be able to explain what everybody understood. Mr. Chairman, we are talking, we're talking about a bill which is the first stage of Denticare, and my point, Mr. Chairman, is that that would have been a far better thing to have advanced, not in this early stage, but in a more complete stage, this session, than Bill 56. And the sensitivity on the part of the members on the opposite side and their reaction to this, Mr. Chairman, I think is indicative of the fact that my statement has hit a very sensitive nerve on their part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for River Heights has spoken and as usual with a great deal of irrelevance. The fact that he's irreverent is beside the point. One doesn't expect reverence from him, but that's another matter.

I would like to deal with Bill 87 in a way that is more pertinent than the honourable member did. He chastises us because we introduced the bill in a way that - he would chastise us because we have not taken more concrete action with respect to the introduction of Denticare service, and he would have us believe that it is a matter which is of high priority to the Conservative group. I find that hard to understand because not only was Denticare hardly ever mentioned by them in successive Legislative Assemblies, but in successive elections. And not only that, when the larger issue of medical care service was being discussed and debated in the public arena over many years, their position was not that it was something of high priority for implementation but that it was undesirable.

Now I really do not apologize when I say that I am unable to understand the position that has been taken by the Honourable Member for River Heights. His colleagues, in the first place, opposed medical care in the 50's and early 1960's - I want to be fair and give the time sequence to all this - some time in the mid-1960's the Conservative Party in this province and across Canada underwent a kind of transition process during which time some were for the introduction of public medical care plan and others were opposed, and with the passage of years from 1963, 1964 on through 1967-68, obviously a majority became converted to support public medical care.

Now the Honourable Member for River Heights comes along and says not only should

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd). . . . we have medical care but we should have Denticare, and he faults us for not having introduced a full-blown, comprehensive dental care program within roughly the first year in office. And I say to him that I do not apologize; that we have proceeded this way which is a more gradual way, a more gradual approach to the introduction of what I agree is a pretty basic public health service. But I say again without apology that I really cannot believe the honourable member when he would suggest, when he suggests that this Denticare program is something that is of high priority to the Conservative Party because if it had been they would have moved on it a few years ago, or certainly by the session of 1969, February, March, April 1969. But they didn't.

Now he went on, of course, to deal with other matters in the course of his remarks, and suggested that the image of Manitoba was somehow failing, was somehow being tarnished because we were proceeding with the automobile insurance bill. I want to suggest to my honourable friend . . .

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, if you're going to allow the Premier the freedom now then this is fine, but . . .

MR. SCHREYER: No, Mr. Chairman. . .

MR. SPIVAK: Well, we're talking about a bill which you said you wanted to talk about; you were going to talk about the bill specifically.

MR. SCHREYER: All right, Mr. Chairman. I offer to desist then in order to make it easier for you, Sir, to enforce the rule about relevance of debate, and I would only plead then that if I'm asked to take my place, that the rule be enforced equally to other members in this Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill 87 be reported? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that I wasn't here earlier. It seems to me that I did forego the opening ceremonies of the Sunflower Festival that is being held at Altona this morning, today and tomorrow, and not only did I forego it but the Minister of Cultural Affairs was to be present and I think the Minister of Agriculture as well. I think it would be quite in order to pass on an invitation to all members of the House to go to Altona tomorrow if they have the time and visit the Altona Sunflower Festival. I'm sure they'd find it very enjoyable.

I must apologize for not being present when Bill 87 was gone through clause by clause in Committee of the Whole, and that we are now at the closing stage where the Bill is to be reported. Nevertheless I'd like to make a few comments or observations in connection with the amendments that were proposed in committee and which I now find are further amended by an amendment that was brought in this morning.

Bill 87 was brought in by a private member on the government side and most likely as a result is considered a Private Member's Bill. But at the same time it appears to me, Mr. Chairman, the dental profession requested the blessing of the government on this very legislation because, when we discussed the amendments in committee, it appeared to me that only amendments that had been discussed with the dental profession would be considered and allowed, or at least otherwise the Bill would not be acceptable. I question that practice very much, Sir, because it seems to me that if a bill of this nature is required to have the blessing of the government and the House, that we should then be free to pass on it as we well desire, and while I think most of the amendments certainly make the Bill much more palatable - I think they were good - I feel they did not go far enough in some respects and I no doubt will comment on some of the points later.

Then too, there's certainly no excuse for my not being here this morning. I should have been here so that I could have placed additional amendments before the committee for consideration, but as the case is now, this is not going to be, and I just want to make some passing remarks.

I feel that the matter of perpetuation of the board, even though lay members will now be added to the membership, or that lay people can now become members of the organization, I still feel because of the provisions of the Act, as it states, that two-thirds of the board have to be dental members, that it still means that the Act and the dental services will remain more or less completely under the control of the dentists. I am not sure and I'm not saying that most of it should not be under the control of the dentists because they are the ones that are performing the service; they are the ones that are more knowledgeable in the field of dentistry, and I certainly feel that they should

(MR. FROESE cont'd) have their fair share of say in the matter. But I feel that the dental profession wanted the blessing of this House and the government so that when they went out to propose and promote this particular service that they could tell to the people that this bill has the blessing of the government and to give it more, well should I say influence and also more persuasion - that it would have more persuasion to the members of the public.

I feel that the lay members on the board, which are a minority, is too small. I indicated this on second reading. I still feel that it is too small and that there should be a larger number of the board come forward from the lay people. This means that the control is completely in the hands of the profession; and because we are now more or less, because of the amendments that we have brought forward or the government brought forward and these have been passed, I think it now gives the appearance that we are in accord with the plan and that it no longer is just a private plan but that this is a public plan and therefore should receive the acceptance of the public.

But will it do what it is thought it will do? I still have some reservations on that point. I'm not happy altogether with the legislation. I do not necessarily want to oppose it for opposition's sake, but several points that I question are the matter of rates, which are completely in the hands of the board; the quorum of meetings is in the hands of the board so that they can have a very low quorum, so that more or less just the two officers of the corporation could form a quorum and have meetings by themselves and the executive, and pass on major matters, so that the executive still will exercise very great powers, in my opinion.

The other point is the annual report. I notice from the provisions of the bill that the corporation will be required to publish in the two newspapers having a large circulation in the city of Winnipeg, to have the annual statement or the financial statement printed on behalf of the public, but I still feel that we as members of this House, should have had a provision brought in so that we would get a report that would probably include more than just a financial statement from this particular service's corporation. I think it would have been valuable, I think in the people's mind this particular corporation will be considered more or less as a Crown corporation. I think this is what the people will think in connection with this corporation that is being set up.

Then, too, I feel that once in operation this bill and the services provided will form the basis for incorporation under Medicare. I think, in my opinion, that's what it is designed for so that they would have something on record, they would have something in operation that they could incorporate more readily into the Medicare scheme. I am not discounting them for this. Surely in the future, at some time in the future no doubt, in my opinion, this will become part and parcel of Medicare in Canada if what has been happening will continue.

The other thing is that no schedule of fees are being provided and I more or less feel that since a schedule of fees was brought into the other plan, that a schedule of fees should have been provided and brought in, in combination with the bill that is before us, so at least we would have some idea as to what the dentists would be charging for certain work. Certainly it wouldn't have hurt the cause and I think it would have been something that we would have accepted quite readily.

So Mr. Chairman, these are a few of the points that I thought I would want to raise. On the whole, I feel that the amendments certainly have been beneficial but not completely satisfactory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill be reported. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I want only to say that I share the regrets of the Honourable Member for Rhineland that he wasn't present during the early part of the discussion on this bill. I think all the points he has raised were dealt with. I just want to repeat, firstly, this is not a government bill; secondly, there is no concept of a Crown corporation; thirdly, the only opportunity the government will have to watch over any such development as may take place under Section 18 would be to bring in the full force and impact of the Insurance Act, in which case they will be subject to all the requirements under the Insurance Act. There is no government involvement in any of this, what is proposed in this bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will make my comments very brief, but I think that we can't just allow to pass the remarks which have been made - I think derogatory remarks

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd). . . . as far as the Progressive Conservative caucus and party, to the effect that because we did not introduce Denticare five years, or four years, or three years or two years ago, that we now can't talk about it. I think that this is an attitude that has been taken quite frequently by the government and there has been a real effort to back us into a corner where we can't - or where you would like to give the impression that we can't entertain new ideas. Now this is simply not true. Half the members of the caucus are new and we agreed early on that we all had ideas, that we were not bound by decisions of previous governments.

I think the reasoning behind the remarks which the Honourable Premier made were so fallacious that they had to be commented on. If the present government is going to accept the same sort of restrictions, then I think they have to recognize that they have now had two opportunities to introduce legislation which would have given us more day nursery facilities. They have had two opportunities to suggest that nursing homes might be included under medical and health services. They have not done so. Now are you prepared to say that you now are never to do that, that your party can never introduce such legislation?

MR. SCHREYER: No, that's . . .

MRS. TRUEMAN: Well this is what you said about us. It's stupid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill 87 be reported.

MR. GREEN: . . . committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has considered Bill 87 and has passed same with amendments.

IN SESSION

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that the report of the committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister for Cultural Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. GORDON JOHNSTON: Before the question is put, could I enquire of the House Leader if we will be sitting past 5:30. Some of the rural members have to make arrangements to get home and it would be helpful to know.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of regret to the honourable member, I can't answer that question now but I will try to answer it at 2:30.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Friday afternoon.